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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

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TEACHERS MAY ORGANIZE

Denver, March 8.—The school teachers of this city are indulging in considerable talk with reference to forming an organization for the purpose of securing a higher rate of pay. The Denver Grade Teachers' Association comprises about 500 members. These members say that they have waited long enough for the revision of the salary schedule, which, after six years of hard work and long experience, only pays the teacher who begins her work $50 per month, and the sum of $70 per month during the last remaining years that she may teach, unless she be advanced to the position of assistant superintendent of a school. "Without a union, backed by a strong labor organization, the teachers will never get the wages which are due them," says the county superintendent of schools Mrs. Mary C. Bradford. Miss Bradford superintendent of public instruction, who was in Chicago at the time the teachers of that city formed a union and affiliated themselves with the American Federation of Labor, is also an urged advocate for a similar step by the teachers of this city. "I am highly in favor of any organization with the power to demand and secure for their rights in the matter of salary," said Miss Bradford. "Teachers, with all the demands made upon them for higher professional preparation and after they have begun their work, should receive wages adequate to the ability required to teach and this can only be obtained by a thorough organization."

BAG MAKERS WIN.

Portland, Ore., March 8.—At Camas, Wash. about fifty miles up the Columbia from this city, a number of girls are employed in a bag factory in connection with the big paper mill at that place. These girls went on strike for a month ago for higher wages and better working conditions. They were unorganized in their action, but have since been settled and the girls have been granted the concessions for which they struck. The conditions I date from March 1. The girls went out for an increase from $1.50 to $1.75 per day and other conditions. When the settlement was reached and the girls returned to work an organization was formed. The town of Camas comprises a population of about 5,000 people and is supported almost entirely by the paper mill. It is the hope of the sympathizers that as soon as the strike shall be over the mayor of the city visited the principal storekeepers of the town and pleaded with them to refuse credit to the strikers until they returned to work. Public sentiment however, was with the girls and success came to the effort to secure a living wage.

SUGGESTS AMENDMENT.

Jefferson City, Mo., March 8.—A constitutional resolution has been introduced in the State Legislature, asking Congress to call a constitutional convention or submit to the several States, which is a Congressional joint resolution, an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, providing that no law enacted by the constitutionality of State enactments shall be determined by the Supreme Court of the United States, but is suggested in the resolution that the United States Senate be the court of last resort in every question involving the rights of the State or the validity or constitutionality of any State law shall be decided by the concurring opinion of every member of the Supreme Court and not by a partial vote.

AGAINST FELLOW-SERVANT RULE

Chattanooga, Tenn. March 8.—The House Judiciary Committee in the State Legislature has recommended the passage of an act to abolish as a defense the fellow-servant rule, in actions for damages for injury or death of employees in all hazardous employments and to modify the defenses of contributory negligence and assumed risks in certain cases, to define the terms used in the act and to make null and void all contracts or agreements intended to exempt employers from liability under the provisions of the act. It is believed that the bill will pass not only the House but the Senate as well and become a law.

WATCH THE CARPENTERS GROW

Washington, March 8.—A letter just received Frank Duffy, general secretary of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, asserts that the brotherhood is growing by leaps and bounds. The following is a list of local organizations chartered by the International Office during the February: San Diego, Kerman, Sanger and Exeter, Cal.; Smithville, Tex.; Haverhill, Mass.; East Syracuse and Rockwell Springs, N. Y.; Oshkosh, Wis., Corvallis, Oreg; Rochester, Nev.; Chester, Ill.; Cedar West Point and Cushing, Okla.; Kennett, Mo.; Beloeil, Quebec; St. John, N. B.; Fredericton, N. B., all in Canada, making a total of eighteen charters issued for the month.

CONVENTION OF MUSICIANS.

St. Louis, March 8.—The eighteenth annual convention of the American Federation of Musicians will be held in Toronto, Ont., commencing May 12, 1913. Indications are that the coming convention will be the most representative in the history of the organization. Secretary Owen Miller says that it is a happy coincident that the musicians meet in Canada, as it is recognized that music is the universal language without State or national division." The A. F. of M. has been successful in building up a large and effective trade union, which has been of immense benefit to those who follow that calling.

WINTER CONDITIONS GOOD.

St. Paul, Minn., March 8.—The Commissioner of Labor, in a bulletin just issued, declares that the mild winter has resulted in improved working conditions throughout the State. The situation particularly is represented in the building trades, in former years the carpenters, masons and thousands employed in general construction, and suffered a yearly period of idleness during the winter months. During this winter, however, construction work has been practically uninterrupted.

RAILWAY EARNINGS.

Washington, March 8.—Bradstreets reports this week gross earnings for the railroads during December, 1912, were $239,486,219, while for December, 1911, they were $208,806,562, or an increase of 12.2 per cent. The operating expenses for December, 1912, were $167,319,692, and in December, 1911, $148,696,136, an increase of 12.5 per cent. This shows that the net earnings for December, 1912, were $72,166,527, while in December, 1911, they were $60,250,946, or an increase of 11.1 per cent.

INCREASES WAGES.

Birmingham, March 8.—The Bessemer Foundry and Machine Company has granted an increase to their machinists of 1 cent an hour, making the scale 40 cents. Every department of this plant employs organized labor.

STEAMFITTERS FALL IN LINE

Worcester, Mass., March 8.—After holding out for more than a year in the hope that they might retain their affiliation with the I. A. Steamfitters and still be a part of the great labor movement, the members of the local union of I. A. Steamfitters, through their executive board, have voted to amalgamate with the United Association of Plumbers. This action is the culmination of a controversy between the two recruiting factions of steamfitters which resulted in the American Federation of Labor finally deciding to recognize only one organization in the pipe fitting trade, and that organization to be the U. A. of Plumbers. The decision in the contention between the two organizations the Central Labor Union of this city lost its charter, which for two years returned until the delegates representing the local union of steamfitters had voted their seats. With the amalgamation of these two organizations it will greatly strengthen the movement in this city, and be of great assistance in clearing up the national situation so far as the pipe fitting trade is concerned.

FIXES CANAL PENSIONS.

Washington, March 8.—The system of compensation for personal injuries of Panama Canal employes is provided for in an executive order promulgated by President Taft to take effect after March 1. The Panama Canal act, approved August, directed the President to provide the method of adjusting the claims of employes. The rules governing the order are as follows: "Every canal employe and those dependent upon him are granted against the canal the same rights received in the course of his work, without reference to questions of contributory negligence or any of the other restrictive rules of the common law limiting the liability of employers in such cases. Every injury received while at work, and death resulting from such injury, are compensated in the schedule of injuries caused by the employe's willful intention, or intoxication. The following order was drawn in the light of the report of Senator Sutherland's commission on workmen's compensation. The certainty of compensation, the elimination of the old common-law defenses against negligence, and the long period long after the conditions which gave rise to them have passed away, removes one of the most serious causes of friction between employers and employes.

LIMIT CHILD INSURANCE.

New York, March 8.—The New York insurance law limits the amount of insurance that may be taken out upon the life of a child to a person liable for the support of the child, by the child with reference to a table, which, for example, limits the amount of insurance which may be taken out on the life of a child between the ages of seven and eight years at $15. In this case the Equitable Industrial Insurance Company of America, decided recently by the New York Court of Appeals. The case involved the question whether the limit in question applied to the amount for which each child's policy might be insured in a single policy or represented the total amount of insurance which could be taken out. The Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court for the Third Department took the former view, but the Court of Appeals reversed the ruling of that tribunal, holding that the act limited the insurance to the amount named in the table without regard to the number of policies.

SILK STRIKE INCREASING.

Paterson, N. J., March 8.—The strike of the silk workers is rapidly assuming large proportions. Up to a late hour last night 2,000 operatives had joined the ranks of the strikers, and this number was increased by 1,000 more this morning. Practically every mill in the city is now involved in the struggle, and it is expected that by tomorrow night 10,000 employes will be out.

CARMEN VICTORIOUS.

Kansas City, Mo., March 8.—A strike called in September, 1911, involving 1,100 carmen on the M., K. & T. Railroad, has been settled after a long struggle. It is affected by the strike were at Sedalia, Mo., Fort Worth, Denison and Smithville, Tex., and Parsons, Kans. The strike followed the refusal of the company to sign a contract with the union. The company held that because of certain Texas State laws, the ratification of the contract by the local representatives representing carpenters employed north of the Red River and south of it, respectively was necessary. The carmen's union held that such a procedure would divide the union and the strikers refused to maintain the organization of carmen.

POTTERS WIN STRIKE.

Zanesville, Ohio, March 8.—The Potters' strike at Crooksville, involving the plants which had been closed since New Year's day, has been settled and the men have returned to work. The employes were given an advance of 25 cents a day for unskilled labor, bringing the wages up to $2 per day. The manufacturers refused to accede to this increase and a strike followed. Finally, however, the management and the union conferred on the situation and a compromise was effected by an advance in wages of 10 cents a day together with the establishment of a week's pay day instead of a semi-monthly one, which had been in practice heretofore.

THIS IS THE LIMIT.

Nashville, Tenn., March 8.—Some time ago a New York firm secured a contract for $10,000 decorating contract in this city. The local decorating firms had an opportunity of bidding on the job, but they were unable to handle a job of this size and character. The New York firm employed members of the local union to do the work, and because the local union refused to withdraw these men at the behest of the firm, the latter now now refuses to employ the members of the local union. No comment is necessary on a situation of this character.

ADOPTS EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Fargo, N. Dak., March 8.—The Moorhead Water and Light Company has adopted the eight-hour day for their employes at the city plant. Up to about a year ago the engineers and firemen worked in twelve-hour shifts, and the extra man was put on, who worked as fireman four hours and as engineer six hours. This was virtually going to the ten-hour day. With the change now adopted an extra fireman will be engaged and all the men will be put on an eight-hour schedule.

WILLIAM B. WILSON SELECTED AS FIRST SECRETARY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Washington, March 8.—William B. Wilson, union coal miner, former nestor of the labor group in the national House of Representatives, has been elevated to the position of Secretary of Labor in the Cabinet of President Wilson. "Billy" Wilson came to Congress as one of the results of the first contest made by the American Federation of Labor to break down the hostility in the United States Congress against remedial labor legislation. He was elected to the Sixtieth Congress from the Fifteenth district of Pennsylvania, and re-elected to the Sixty-first and Sixty-second Congresses. In the great political change which occurred in the Congressional elections for members of the latter Congress, Congressman Wilson was made chairman of the House Labor Committee. During his incumbency in this position his astuteness, logic, and clear exposition of labor measures resulted in favorable reports being rendered to the House on many important bills. Unlike former labor committees of the House, it became one of the active and effective ones, and every bill referred to it was given consideration.

"Billy" Wilson not only stands now, but has stood pre-eminent during his Congressional career as possessed of those attributes capable of assuming responsibility in the big things of life. His worth and ability has been thoroughly recognized by those who have had the opportunity to be associated intimately with him, and it is with much gratification that the entire nation will now have an opportunity to know, by his works, the man who, as a coal miner, made the cause of humanity the larger portion of his life's work.

The American Federation of Labor Executive Council unanimously indorsed "Billy" Wilson as Secretary of Labor. That indorsement was concurred in from every quarter of the great organized labor movement as a well-deserved tribute for services rendered to the end that the day of more exact justice might be brought nearer.

The fact that the American Federation of Labor has been successful in its efforts in having Congress create a Department of Labor, designed to meet and solve the industrial problems, so far as governmental action is necessary, is cause for gratification. Added to this the appointment of "Billy" Wilson to preside over that department is indeed a happy situation. To have a representative of the wage earners at the council table of the President of the nation is an assurance that labor's wrongs will receive the consideration that is due it, and its hopes and desires presented and championed by one whose experience qualifies him to meet this responsibility.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT GIVES VIEWS RELATIVE TO LABOR

Washington, March 8.—It is now President Wilson. In his inaugural address he made pointed reference to labor, indicating that if action carries his views into realization the trend toward industrial justice will be accentuated and a reshaping of governmental policy relative to labor will ensue. In keen contrast to official declarations of former times comes the assurance that efforts will be put forth to institute an era of industrial equity. The following excerpt from the inaugural address, recounting the deficiencies of our government, is suggestive:

"Nor have we studied and perfected the means by which government may be put at the service of humanity, in safeguarding the health of the nation, the health of its men and its women and children, as well as their rights in the struggle for existence. This is no sentimental duty. The firm basis of government is justice, not pity. These are matters of justice. There can be no equality of opportunity—the first essential of justice in the body politic—if men and women and children be not shielded in their lives, their very vitality, from the consequences of great industrial and social processes which they cannot alter, control, or simply cope with. Society must see to it that it does not wink or connive at wrong or damage in its own constituent parts. The rough processes of our day are not obviously just to many whose interests seem to be sacrificed to our profit and our pride. The large results of our life are apparent; the small and the permanent, the full spirit of our time, are not. The task of government is to see to it that the forces that are destructive shall be brought under control, and that the forces that are constructive shall be released for use. Our life as a nation is dependent on our life as men and women, and we shall serve it well only as we serve it humanly."

VALUATION BILL PASSED.

Washington, March 8.—The bill for the physical valuation of railroads as a basis of rate regulations has been signed by the President and is now a law. This bill is of large importance, not only to the public, but also to the railroad organizations. It is a well known fact that the system of rate making in financing railroad corporations results very largely in the overcapitalization of these roads, and this has been an obstacle in the way of the employes securing adequate wage scales on account of the difficulty of arriving at an equitable basis as to the value of railroad properties. With the information secured in the light of day, the management of the various railroads will be unable to increase the burden of bonded indebtedness in the stock as an available asset upon which to base wage scales.

CANADIAN ACCIDENTS.

Toronto, Can., March 8.—Industrial accidents occurring to 454 individual working people in Canada during the month of December, 1912, were reported by the Department of Labor. Of these, 97 were fatal and 357 resulted in serious injuries. In the preceding month there were 111 fatal and 359 nonfatal accidents reported, a total of 473, and in December, 1911, there were 84 fatal and 183 nonfatal accidents, a total of 267. The number of fatal accidents reported in December, 1912, was, therefore, 17 less than in the preceding month and 13 more than in December, 1911. The number of nonfatal accidents reported in December, 1912, was 2 less than in the preceding month and 174 more than in December, 1911. Altogether, there were 19 less industrial accidents reported in December than in the preceding month and 177 more than in the same month of the preceding year.

MOVEMENT GAINING MOMENTUM.

Roanoke, Va., March 8.—According to the Era, the local labor paper, the Central Labor Council is rapidly coming to the front as a power for good to the community. The attendance is larger than it has been for years, and the work in prospect is far-reaching. The committee work is being done with celerity, and is efficient. The council is no longer burdened and discouraged with debt, but has a comfortable balance in the treasury. Another encouraging feature is that a number of unions that have hitherto taken slight interest in the council are now sending delegates and they are entering heartily into the work. The paper mentioned adds that the outlook is indeed bright for the council, and that the coming year will chronicle many improvements as the result of this renewed activity.

INDORSE ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN.

Pittsburg, March 8.—The recent convention of District 5, United Mine Workers, voted hearty approval of a recommendation by President Van Bittner to organize the nonunion coal fields in Fayette county. The organization work will be commenced in the Irwin and Connellsville coke fields and other districts where there are 50,000 unorganized miners. An assessment of one-half of 1 per cent was levied by the convention to cover the expenses incident to the organizing work.

OKLAHOMA HOSPITAL BILL.

Oklahoma City, March 8.—The bill requiring the railroad companies to maintain hospital facilities in the State has passed both houses and is now in the hands of the Governor. Gov. Cruce two years ago vetoed a similar bill, but the bill at this session has the support of companies to construct hospital buildings within the State, while the present bill only requires that the railroad companies maintain hospital facilities in the State.

GAS ENGINEMEN STRIKE.

Sharon, Pa., March 8.—Demanding time and a half for overtime, 100 men employed at the Bessemer Gas Engine Works, at Grove City, are on strike.

LABOR DEPARTMENT.

Washington, March 8.—The government of the United States now has a department devoted exclusively to the interests of labor. Last summer the House passed the Sulzer bill, and in the closing hours of the Sixty-second Congress the Senate concurred and the President signed it. Some appropriation was in that bill the bill would not be reached in the Senate, but Senator Borah of Idaho, chairman of the Appropriation and Labor Committee of the Senate, secured its early consideration and passage a few days before adjournment. This is a distinct achievement for the American Federation of Labor, as it has urged for years that this department be created.

PAINTERS LOCKED OUT.

Winnipeg, March 8.—The union painters employed by a contracting firm in this city have been treated to an attempted reduction in wages. A agreement was in force which called for 40 cents per hour. For some unknown reason in paying off this company reduced the wages to 35 cents an hour, and upon the refusal of the men to accept the cut all were locked out. It is not expected that the lockout will last any considerable length of time, for the painters are not only firmly but independent at the manner in which they have been treated.

RAILROAD TELEGRAPHERS.

St. Louis, March 8.—February was a busy month for the Order of Railroad Telegraphers. Committees that had been in conference for some time seeking increases in wages and improved working rules reached settlements on the following roads: Bessemer and Lake Erie, Chesapeake and Ohio, Delaware and Hudson, Southern Railway, Illinois Central, Virginian Railway, Seaboard Air Line, Milwaukee and Puget Sound, Chicago and Great Western. The end of the month finds eleven committees on as many roads negotiating for betterments.

UNION "INVASION."

Portland, Ore., March 8.—The spirit of organization in all sections of the country is still growing and even the small contiguous communities are feeling the effects of this movement. From Oregon City comes word that the movement of the organized workers is meeting with splendid success. While the bricklayers, plasterers, the painters, carpenters and plumbers have just effected organizations. Oregon City is a small but growing and prosperous town.

STEEL WORKERS GET RAISE.

Johnstown, Pa., March 8.—Ten thousand employes of the Cambria Steel Company were given an advance in wages recently. The minimum rate for laborers now will be 17 cents an hour. It is problematical whether this slight raise will be satisfactory to the employes and it is also questionable whether these employes will be given opportunity to purchase any of the stock offered bi-yearly by the steel corporation.

TO ABOLISH CONTRACT SYSTEM.

Des Moines, March 8.—Abolishment of the contract labor system in the State penitentiary at Fort Madison and all other State prisons is the object of a bill introduced in the State legislature. The measure provides that at the expiration of any existing contracts the prison board shall take charge of the labor of prisoners and furnish work.

POORLY PAID FRENCH WOMEN.

Washington, March 8.—The French government has recently published a table showing the wages paid working women in France. Women ironers, in dress goods employment, are sometimes paid as high as 6 cents an hour, 3 cents an hour being the minimum. Their working day is ten hours and over. Dressmakers' pay runs from 2 to 5 cents an hour. Their working day is nine and one-half to ten hours, and at times their payment has been recorded as low as 2 cents per hour. Shirtwaist makers get from 4 cents per hour, and the average pay never exceeds 6 cents. Women embroiderers' wages run from a minimum of 5 cents to a maximum of 10 cents per hour for especially fine work. The prevailing rate for millinery is 3 cents, and rarely ever exceeds 7 cents per hour. Consul Hurst makes the observation that there is a growing solidarity among women wage-earners in France, and there is every reason to believe that the average wages paid will be materially increased during 1913. It is to be hoped that the French working women will make an earnest effort to improve their industrial conditions.

TELEPHONE MEN STEADFAST.

San Francisco, March 8.—A vote of the employes in the operating and maintenance department of the Pacific States Telephone and Telegraph Company, just canvassed, show that the men are practically unanimous in standing by their demand for an increase in wages of fifty cents per day, made the latter part of last year. The result of this vote is an authorization to the district council to adhere to this demand in case a satisfactory settlement is not reached. The men involved are linemen, cable splicers, switchboard men, laborers, test board and facility men. The local unions affected by this movement are located in Sacramento, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Nevada. It is believed, however, that an agreement will be reached with the company without recourse to a strike.

CO-OPERATION.

Louisville, March 8.—President McNulty of the Tobacco Workers' International Union, has been in Knoxville, Tenn., with Secretary Hibbert, of the United Textile Workers, and through their efforts 650 new members have been added to the Textile Workers' Union, practically making the Brookside mills a strictly union shop. An adjustment of grievances was also secured, which means that it a 10 per cent increase in wages, the company signing an agreement stipulating that these betterments. A local union of tobacco workers is being organized in Greenville, Tenn., and another union of tobacco workers is being organized at Springfield, Tenn. The prospects for organizing a textile union of union in the latter place is also good.

WAGES OF AMERICAN WOMEN.

Washington, March 8.—The United States census for 1905 on the manufacture of women's clothing showed that women of sixteen years of age and over were paid an average of 16.35 per week, and children, under sixteen years of age, an average of $5.46 per week. Compensation to seamstresses and dressmakers working on their own account varies all in the several sections of the country and frequently with the season that no average wages could be stated by the census statisticians.

SOUGHT THE REASON.

Washington, March 8.—It is reported by a Boston news agency that the manager of the Baltimore & Ohio recently started an investigation to ascertain why labor was so scarce along his line, and why there was not the usual inflow of Italian immigration. The answer was not to be had in America. It was on the other side of the ocean. The manager found that wages in Italy had risen to $1.20 per day, and that Italians did not have to cross the ocean to seek work along the line of the Baltimore & Ohio.

CHANGES ITS HEADQUARTERS

St. Louis, March 8.—President A. B. Lowe, in a communication to headquarters, states that the International Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes have purchased the building in Detroit, Mich., located at 27 Putnam Avenue, and the headquarters of that organization will be located at that address after March 15. The building on this property is fitted for the purposes for which they are to be used, one building being devoted to the printing plant and the other to the general offices of the organization. Chairman Murray, of the Grand Trunk lines of Canada, informs the general offices of the maintenance of way that the organization on the government railways has been offered Canadian Pacific rates, which means a good increase over the present scale, and the offers are being canvassed relative to its acceptance. It is questionable whether or not this offer will be accepted, as the Canadian Pacific is about to revise its schedule, and in this connection it is said that wages may be raised, and in that event it is desirable that the government rate be made equal to those of the Canadian Pacific road. A conference has been had between a committee of maintenance men and the management of the Boston and Maine, but has been adjourned in order to give the company opportunity to consider the matter of a raise, and the expectation is that a substantial increase will finally be accorded.

SHENANDOAH NEWS.

Shenandoah, Pa., March 8.—An organization of retail clerks has been organized with a splendid charter list. The early closing movement will undoubtedly be unsuccessful immediately as the merchants favor early closing. Other betterments are also in sight. The employes in a certain factory are out on strike. The result of the discharge of a number of young women, who were active in the organizing of a union. Conference, however, have been had, and the reinstatement of the girls has been accorded to. The increase in the wage scale has not yet been agreed to, but it is believed that a full settlement will be reached. The employes of a number of garment factories at Mahonoy City are also on strike for an increase in wages, and there is a probability that it will spread to adjacent factories. A local shirt factory refused to increase wages and a strike also resulted and the plant has closed down, with the announcement that it will be removed to another city. The miners at the Kehley and Gilberry are on strike, the men claiming that the operators are not living up their contract of May, last year, in not restoring the contract rates of 1906.

ADVANCES.

Peterboro, Canada, March 8.—The controversy between the Typographical Union and the employers which at present became close to a strike, has been ended by an amicable settlement, that provides for an increase of $1 per week on the scale. The increase is $1 per week for hand men for the first year, another dollar for the second year, and another dollar for the third year, making an aggregate $3 increase. Linotype, monoline and ludlow operators receive a similar advance in scale. Two dollars a week additional for the night work is given to employes of the Canada General Electric Works have secured an increase of 10 per cent all round, effective on and after cents per hour and under. A 10 per cent increase is also given to all females who have been in the employ of the company for two years or over, and a 5 per cent increase to those in the service one year and less. The company has in its employ over 1,800 people.

ADDS NEW FEATURE.

Washington, March 8.—Regulations covering the operation of Cuba by the adoption of the parcel post system have been approved by the Post-office Department, and will commence early next July 1. On and after that date the sender of a parcel on which the postage is fully prepaid will have the privilege of having the charges thereon collected from the addressee, provided the amount does not exceed $100. The fee for each collection is 10 cents, to be affixed by the sender of the parcel post stamps. In consideration of which the contents will also be insured against loss without additional charge to an amount equivalent to the actual value not to exceed $50. The sender will be given a receipt, showing the date of the mailing, the number of the parcel and the amount to be collected. The fee for insurance will be provided for when the parcel post system was placed in operation, as it was desired to have the benefit of postmasters during the first days of the service. The system is now well organized, and hence the addition of the C. O. D. privilege.

INVESTIGATING STRIKE.

Denver, March 8.—Formal hearings before the joint committee of the two houses of the State Legislature appointed to investigate conditions in the Northern Colorado coal fields have been set for this afternoon, when it is said the fields to make a preliminary observation of the physical conditions in the mining district. The hearings will be confined to the question of the strike as to its causes and effects. The committee is to get at the bottom of conditions for the purpose of recommending needful legislation. The action taken toward the inquiry was brought about by a delegation of the wives of the strikers who appeared before the committee urging such action. This strike has been on more than two years.

GOVERNMENT TO BUILD SHIP.

Washington, March 8.—After a four days' debate the House passed the Naval appropriation bill, carrying approximately $140,000,000. Among items for the construction of one battleship, six torpedo boat destroyers and four submarines, a provision offered by Congressman Calder of New York, so as to require that the battleship shall be constructed in a government navy yard.

WYOMING LABOR BUREAU.

Cheyenne, March 8.—A bill has been introduced in the State Legislature, which provides for the establishment of a bureau of labor. The bill provides for a commissioner and commissioner and an assistant. While Wyoming is largely an agricultural State, yet there are considerable mines within the confines of the State.

WOOD CARVERS' INCREASE.

Boston, Mass., March 8.—Thomas J. Lodge, secretary of the International Wood Carvers, has received information that the Detroit, Mich., branch has secured for its members an increase of 5 cents per hour.

METAL TRADES CAMPAIGN

Erie, Pa., March 8.—The campaign being conducted by the Metal Trades Department, A. F. of L., in this city is becoming more and more effective. Such success has been made in interesting the men employed in the metal trades that the Manufacturers' Association has deemed it advisable to adopt a so-called declaration of "principles." In this declaration there are many whereases, and it finally resolves "that this organization hereby declares finally and definitely that it will not run a union shop, thereby declaring against the right of any man who does not belong to a union or trade organization and that they will have no conferences with any representative of any trade union or any organization whose actions are directed in any way by people who are not in the employ of the concern." This declaration of "principles" has been posted in conspicuous places in the several manufacturing plants. Injunctions have been issued, but the courts have refused to grant and are not having any appreciable effect upon the campaign. Notwithstanding the made against the employers, the efforts of the organizers are being continued and greater interest is being aroused on the part of them as a result of these efforts, the boilermakers in the employ of one company only, with a good-sized charter list. The stationary engineers have also organized, and much enthusiasm is being aroused by these two organizations. The metal trades campaign has aroused the building trades, and the organizations are holding large meetings with a notable increase in membership. The revival in interest in the work of the organizers is most telling.

LA FOLLETTE ON THE JOB.

Washington, March 8.—During the discussion of the post-office appropriation bill, repealing the "gag" executive order of ex-President Roosevelt and which was followed by another executive order by President Taft, Senator La Follette, author of the repeal of the "gag" provision, emphasized the right of the employes in the postal service to petition Congress on any choice. He closed his speech with the following statement:

The question has been given that the American Federation of Labor is an organization that encourages strikes by means of strikes, but the American Federation of Labor has no authority to declare a strike, does not assume any jurisdiction over trade affairs. It is simply a congress of the different trade unions of the United States. Each trade union has complete trade autonomy. Each trade deals with its own trade disputes without interference by any other trade or by the American Federation of Labor. Affiliation with the American Federation of Labor would not in any manner tend toward creating strikes on the part of affiliates. On the contrary, when any trade organization brings its grievances to the attention of the Federation of Labor, if, which is only does so for counsel and advice. And it has been my invariable practice in the officials of the American Federation of Labor to advise the trade affiliated with the organization to bring all their disputes before resorting to strikes. The American Federation of Labor is a great organization, having great responsibilities, and there is nothing which tends more toward creating disrepute than the unnecessary declaration of strikes. It follows, then, that affiliation with the American Federation of Labor, instead of tending to produce strikes, has a tendency to prevent them. It is well known to the students of the labor movement that labor organizations have prevented more strikes than they have ever inaugurated. In the best organized industries in the United States trade disputes are generally settled without a strike. This fact does not get into the newspapers as a rule, but is generally known, while the strikes, being the exception, rather than the rule, attract attention. Even if the unwarranted assumption that labor organizations are institutions created for the purpose of promoting strikes were correct, that because a trade union is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor it would be entitled to receive the sympathetic strike in order to assist some other labor organization engaged in it was deemed advisable by the American Federation of Labor is a misapprehension of facts. The American Federation of Labor has no power to authorize or order one trade organization to strike in sympathy with or for the assistance of another. No trade organization can be ordered on strike except with the consent of its own members, and the laws of the trade unions very frequently require as much as 75 per cent of the members of the union necessary to authorize a strike must be two-thirds of the entire membership."

"PLUCK-MES" PROPOSED.

Philadelphia, March 8.—"Pluck-me" stores will be introduced into Philadelphia if the recommendation of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company can place in effective operation a plan which it is now advocating for the benefit of its employes. A notice has been issued by the Rapid Transit Company to motormen, conductors and other employes that the company proposes to open stores where the employes may buy supplies of necessities at less than the prevailing market rates. It is claimed by representatives of the company that the only thing this is the "pluck me" store system in a new guise, and that the street railmen are to be made the victims, and the scheme may be extended to other branches of the transportation service. The trolleymen do not receive a sufficient remuneration for their services at present, and it is said that the company apparently hopes to control these purchases and thereby force their employes to purchase the necessities of life from the company. Carried to its natural conclusion the employes of the traction company will undoubtedly be compelled to purchase their supplies from the company stores or else find that they may hold their positions. Much indignation is expressed by the employes of the company.

STRIKE IN POWER PLANT.

Easton, Pa., March 8.—The engineers, firemen, and helper employed by the Northern Power Company are on strike. The trolley lines leading into and through Easton are not affected, but the industries dependent upon the plant for power and light have closed down, leaving thousands employed idle. The strike occurred over the refusal of the company to make a slight advance in wages.

NEW LABOR HOSPITAL.

San Francisco, March 8.—A new hospital, to be known as the Union Labor Hospital and Training School for Nurses of San Francisco, is to be launched in this city in the near future. The plan of the institution will be in readiness to open by July 1 next.